

REMARKS

Claims 33-41, 44, and 46-53 are pending. Claims 33, 39, 40, 44, 50, 51, and 53 have been allowed. 34-38, 41, 43, 45-49, and 52 stand rejected. The Examiner objected to Claim 42 as being depended upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 34 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 42 – an objected to but otherwise allowable claim. Claims 46-49 have been amended to depend from Claim 53 – an allowed claim. The applicant asks that the Examiner consider these amendments as they simply place the respective claims in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 102: The Examiner rejected Claims 34-37, 41, 43, 45-48, and 52 as being anticipated by USPN 4,616,291 issued to Samezki. The Examiner has stated that Claim 42 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claim 42 depended from Claim 34. Claim 34 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of Claim 42 and is now in condition for allowance. Claims 35-37 and 41 each depend from Claim 34 and are also now in condition for allowance.


Claims 43 and 45 have been cancelled. Claims 46-48 and 52 have been amended to depend from allowed Claim 53 rather than Claim 45. As such, claims 46-49 and 52 are in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 103: The Examiner rejected Claim 38 and 49 as being obvious over Samezki in view of Japanese Publication 11-84921 to Fukao. Claim 38 depends from Claim 34, and Claim 49 has been amended to depend from Claim 53. For the same reasons Claim 34 and 53 are patentable, so are Claims 38 and 49.

CONCLUSION: The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Claims 33-41, 44, and 46-53 are felt to be in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing the application to issue is earnestly solicited. The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,
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